

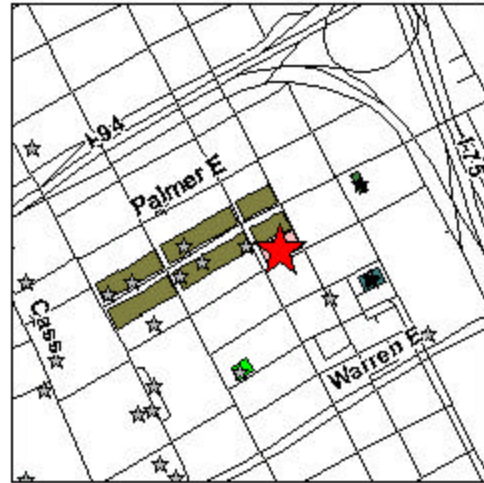
## **East Kirby Avenue Historic District**

425,433,443,457 East Kirby Avenue.

Local                    v            7/17/92  
State  
State Marker  
National



425-457 East Kirby Avenue.



### **Historic overview:**

The East Kirby Historic District consists of a total of four residential buildings; three two-family flats and a 30-unit apartment building. The area is part of the D. M. Ferry Subdivision plotted in 1886. Kirby Avenue was named after a wealthy Detroit store merchant specializing in leather goods.

The ethnic history of the area has had several changes over the last century. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the area was home to the upper middle class such as David Whitney and D. M. Ferry and was considered a stylish place to live. The area started to decline around 1910 when people started to move north to the areas of Boston Edison and Arden Park. By the late teens to early twenty's a large Jewish population moved in, built three synagogues, houses, several apartments and institutions. Another change came with the increase in black population in the early part of the century with the increase in manufacturing jobs in the city. Blacks populated the area from the 30's to the 40's and established the first black hospital in Detroit, school of music and the Great Lakes Mutual Insurance Company to help blacks finance homes and secure loans. One of their investments was the building at 457 E. Kirby, Great Lakes Manor, Kirby Manor then.

425, 433 and 443 E. Kirby are each two-story, two family flats built between 1914 and 1918 in the vernacular prairie style. Great Lakes Manor at 457 E. Kirby, built in 1925, is a four-story brick building that contained 34 units and a store. Some of the more notable residents of the district included John W. Roxborough of 425 E. Kirby who was Joe Lewis's manager for 10 years. Jacob B. Lasky of 433 E. Kirby was the founder of the Hebre Free Loan Society and Herman W. Boers of 443 E. Kirby gained popularity when he pushed for the release of a commemorative stamp after President Harding's death.

